

-- IN THE CLAIMS --

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

14. (currently amended) An improved composition for nitrate removal and for the treatment of waste water streams, without pH adjustment, comprising: (1) a first component selected from the group consisting of clay absorbents, absorbent-adsorbent products, and organic modified clays and (2) a second component selected from the group consisting of :

- a. highly insoluble crosslinked carbohydrate polymers with a branched-chain structure containing ~~at least one~~ a moiety selected from the group consisting of sulfides, disulfides, sulfonates, and sulfates;
- b. crosslinked starch xanthates;
- c. xanthates;
- d. starch xanthate-xanthides;
- e. a sulfur containing compound selected from the group consisting of 3-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane, 3-mercaptopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, starch xanthate Sulfamic acid adduct, dithiocarbonic acid, dithiocarbonic acid combined with 3-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane, dithiocarbonic acid combined with 3-mercaptopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, xanthate combined with 3-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane,

xanthate combined with 3-mercaptopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, and trisodium salt of 1,3,5-Triazine-2,4,6-(1H,3H,5H)-trithione; and

f. regenerated cellulose (Ground viscose);

wherein said composition is in a solid form selected from the group consisting of granules and pellets; and wherein said composition is used to treat waters without any need to adjust pH.

Claims 15 - 21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 14 comprising:

(a) up to 70 parts, high swelling sodium bentonite;

(b) from 10 to 70 parts, calcium bentonite;

(c) up to 70 parts, zeolite; and

(d) ~~at least one~~ a component selected from the group consisting of:

(1) up to 20 parts, insoluble carbohydrate polymer of highly crosslinked yellow starch xanthate (PR-XIS 100);

(2) from 0.5 to 70 parts, of an insoluble carbohydrate polymer consisting of a crosslinked starch xanthate alloy with sulfamic acid; and

(3) from 70 to 0.1 parts, 1,3,5 triazine-trithione salt PR-XIS 210.

23. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 14 ~~which~~ further ~~comprises at least one~~ containing a polyelectrolyte flocculant selected from the group consisting of cationic polyelectrolytes, anionic polyelectrolytes, and nonionic polyelectrolytes.

24. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 22 ~~which~~ further ~~comprises at least one~~ containing a compound selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, anthracite, charcoal, and lignin.

Claims 25-27 (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 23 wherein said ~~at least one~~ polyelectrolyte flocculant is selected from the group consisting of anionic polyelectrolytes.

29. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 14 ~~which~~ further ~~comprises at least one~~ containing a compound selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, anthracite, charcoal, and lignin.

30. (canceled)

31. (allowed) An improved composition for nitrate removal and for the treatment of waste water streams, without pH adjustment, comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) up to 70 parts, high swelling sodium bentonite;
- (b) up to 70 parts, calcium bentonite;
- (c) up to 70 parts, zeolite; and
- (d) up to 70 parts, organic modified clay; and

at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- (e) up to 20 parts, insoluble carbohydrate polymer of highly crosslinked yellow starch xanthate (PR-XIS 100);
- (f) from 0.5 to 70 parts, insoluble carbohydrate polymer crosslinked starch xanthate alloy with sulfamic acid; and
- (g) from 70 to 0.1 parts, 1,3,5 triazine-trithione salt PR-XIS 210.

32. (allowed) A composition according to claim 31 which further comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, anthracite, charcoal, and lignin.

33. (canceled)